

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-directional slide switch comprising:

a case comprising:

an inner bottom surface;

5 a sidewall standing erect from an outer periphery  
of said inner bottom surface; and

a fixed contact provided on one of an inner surface  
of said sidewall and said inner bottom surface in a vicinity of said  
sidewall;

10 a movable contact disposed in said case so that one end of  
said movable contact is in contact with said fixed contact, wherein  
movement of said movable contact toward a center of said case is  
restricted; and

a driver movably housed in said case, said driver being  
15 urged by said movable contact to be positioned in the center of said  
case in an inoperative state, wherein said driver is adapted to push  
said movable contact and bring said movable contact into contact with  
said fixed contact when said driver is slid.

20 2. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 1, wherein said  
driver comprises:

a control lever projecting away from said inner bottom  
surface; and

a body portion having said control lever disposed thereon  
25 and movably housed in said case.

3. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 1, wherein said  
driver comprises a restricting portion, said case further comprises a

guide part, and said guide part guides said restricting portion to restrict a direction when said driver is slid.

4. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 3, wherein said  
5 guide part further restricts movement of said driver to a predetermined amount.

5. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 1, wherein said  
movable contact is formed of a resilient thin metal plate and  
10 comprises:

a fixation portion fixed to a position on a line connecting  
a point on said inner bottom surface of said case and a corner of said  
inner bottom surface of said case;

a resilient leg having a root and a tip adapted to make  
15 contact with the inner surface of said sidewall contacting the corner of  
said inner bottom surface of said case; and

a resilient arm connecting said fixation portion and the  
root of said resilient leg.

20 6. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 5, further  
comprising at least one additional movable contact similar to said  
movable contact, wherein a pair of said movable contacts are  
integrally formed into an M shape, and a corresponding pair of said  
resilient arms are supported in positions symmetrical with respect to  
25 the line connecting the point on said inner bottom surface of said case  
and the corner of said inner bottom surface of said case.

7. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 6, wherein said pair of movable contacts integrally formed into the M shape are disposed symmetrically with respect to the point on said bottom surface of said case.

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8. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 5, wherein said driver comprises a contact portion in contact with a portion of said movable contact connecting said resilient arm and said resilient leg to keep said driver in the center of said case in the inoperative state.

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9. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 8, wherein said contact portion pushes the portion of said movable contact connecting said resilient arm and said resilient leg of said movable contact in a direction in which said driver is moved, and thereby slides the tip of said resilient leg on the inner surface of said sidewall in contact with the tip and brings said movable contact into contact with said fixed contact.

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10. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 1, further comprising:

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a press switch section in a center of said inner bottom surface of said case; and

a press rod passing through said driver, said press rod disposed to be vertically movable.

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11. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 10, further comprising:

a cover for covering a top opening of said case;

a control lever projecting from a hole provided in a center of said cover, said control lever adapted to slide said driver; and

a knob attached to said control lever,

wherein an outer peripheral bottom end of said knob is in  
5 contact with an outer periphery of the hole through said cover, and  
said press rod is adapted to be depressed through a through-hole  
provided in a center of said knob.

12. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 10, further  
10 comprising a control lever for sliding said driver, said control lever  
engaging said driver to be independently and vertically movable and  
also serving as said press rod.

13. The multi-directional slide switch of claim 10, wherein said  
15 case further comprises a wall surrounding said press switch section at  
a center of said inner bottom surface, said press rod is positioned  
above a top end of said wall by a predetermined amount while in an  
inoperative state, said press rod has a flange at a bottom end thereof,  
and a clearance between the flange and an inner circumference of said  
20 wall is smaller than an amount of movement of said driver in a sliding  
operation.